



PATENT APPLICATION

#12
56-04
P.2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akira OHMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2612

Application No.: 09/576,221

Examiner: Nelson D. Hernandez

Filed: May 22, 2000

Docket No.: 106/21

For: IMAGE STORAGE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAY 04 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

5/10/04
VKS

In reply to the March 24, 2004 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, the shortened statutory period for response being extended by the enclosed Petition for Extension of Time, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-16, 32-36 and 40-46 and Species 1, claims

1-16 of which claim 1 is generic. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply

in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Yong S. Choi
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MAC:YSC/dmw

Date: April 28, 2004

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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